



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,213	06/02/2005	Guy Patrick Hindle	GB920020006US1	4682
50170	7590	05/15/2009	EXAMINER	
IBM CORP. (WIP)			AL HASHEMI, SANA A	
c/o WALDER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, P.C.				
17330 PRESTON ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 100B				2156
DALLAS, TX 75252				
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/15/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/537,213	HINDLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sana Al-Hashemi	2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is issued in response to amendment filed 2/20/09

Claims 1-5 were amended. Claims 6-23 were canceled. Claims 24-31 were added.

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 24-31 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the original filed claims are drawn to a method of synchronizing data classified in 707/203. On the other hand, the newly filed claims are drawn to a middle tier computer used to form a new master date which does not synchronize the master data classified in 707/102, both claimed invention can be used together but they don't have to be together.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 24-31 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, line 4 recites the limitation “executing, by said second non-legacy computer, at least one operation on said copy of the master data”. It is unclear to the examiner if the master

version is stored on the legacy computer how would the non-legacy computer execute an operation, since the body of the claims does not clearly show how the legacy and non-legacy computer(s) communicate. Appropriate clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehman et al. (Gehman hereinafter) US Patent No. 7,136,881 filed Dec. 15, 2000 in view of Grimsrud US Patent No. 6,546,437 filed March 18, 1999.

Regarding Claim 1, Gehman discloses a method of synchronizing data in a distributed data processing system comprising:

storing a master data in at least one legacy computer system (Fig. 2, step 40, event master server, Col. 2, lines 6, Gehman);

enabling a first non-legacy computer to support synchronization (Col. 2, line 48, client server, Gehman);

storing a copy of the master data in a second non-legacy computer (Col. 2, lines 51-52, Gehman);

executing, by said second non-legacy computer, at least one operation (Col. 3, lines 44-46, Gehman);

sending, by said second non-legacy computer, said at least one operation to said first non-legacy computer (Col. 3, lines 46-53, Gehman);

replaying, by said first non-legacy computer, said at least one operation on said master data at said at least one legacy computer (Col. 3, lines 59-64, Gehman);

determining whether the at least one operation is successful (Fig. 3B, step 96, wherein the optional of yes when successful and no if not, Gehman); and

in response to a determination that the at least one operation is successful, synchronizing said master data by applying said at least one operation to form a modified copy (Fig. 3A, S82, Gehman) of the master data (Fig. 3B, step 98, Gehman). As stated above the Gehman reference discloses all the limitations. However, the Gehman is silent with respect the computers being a non-legacy or legacy computers. On the other hand, Grimsrud discloses the use of both legacy and non-legacy computers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the legacy and non-legacy computer in the Gehman system. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so in order to detect any changes or any hardware connected to the system as taught in Col. 3, lines 7-20, and Col. 8, lines 33-51, Grimsrud).

Regarding Claim 2, the combination of Gehman in view of Grimsrud discloses a method further comprising sending, by the second non-legacy computer, a synchronization protocol to the first non- legacy computer (Col. 3, lines 1-6, Gehman).

Regarding Claim 3, the combination of Gehman in view of Grimsrud discloses a method wherein said at least one operation further comprises at least two operations which are replayed by said first non-legacy computer sequentially (Col. 4, lines 20-26, Gehman).

Regarding Claim 4, the combination of Gehman in view of Grimsrud discloses a method wherein the replayed, by said first non-legacy computer further comprises:

sending by said first non-legacy computer the results from said at least one operation, to said second non-legacy computer (Col. 5, lines 14-18, Gehman); and

sending by said first non-legacy computer a new copy of the master data, to said second non-legacy computer (Col. 5, lines 20-24, Gehman).

Regarding Claim 5, the combination of Gehman in view of Grimsrud discloses a method further comprises:

responsive to a determination that the at least one operation, is not successful, not synchronizing the master data (Fig. 3B step 96, the “no” option, Gehman).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/20/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues "Gehman does not teach or suggest executing at least one operation in a copy of the master data in a second non-legacy computer".

Examiner disagrees. The argued limitation was rejected under 112 for being unclear and the applicant did not clarify the rejected limitation. Therefore the 112 rejection has been sustained and finalized. Furthermore the applicant argued the applied art fail to disclose the

argued limitation, to the best of the Examiner ascertain the argued limitation is disclosed in Gehman Col. 3, lines 40-55, wherein the teaching of manipulating data within master directory database and the replicating the manipulated data within master directory event system to a client corresponds to the copy of the master data to a non-legacy computer.

Applicant argues the Gehman does not teach or suggest a determination of whether the first non-legacy computer successfully executed”.

Examiner disagrees. Gehman in Fig. 3A step S82 clearly discloses the “YES” which corresponds to successfully execute and the “NO” to the unsuccessfully executed.

Applicant argues there is no motivation in combining the Gehman and the Grimsrud references.

Examiner disagrees. The Gehman system would benefit from the combination with the Grimsrud since it will add a feature which (legacy and non-legacy communication) will improve the performance of the Gehman reference when detecting any changes to the system and this way the system would be aware of all new changes such as new hardware connected to the system. Therefore the examiner believes there is an improvement to the Gehman system when combined with the Grimsrud.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is 571-272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8Am-4:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on 571-272-4125. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/537,213
Art Unit: 2156

Page 8

/Sana Al-Hashemi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2156